

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed to insert headings to conform the application to U.S. practice, to eliminate the use of multiple dependent claims, and to correct informalities in the specification, claims and abstract resulting from a literal translation of the French text.

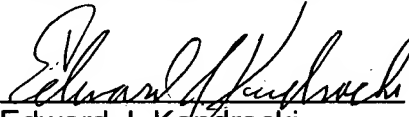
Early action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MILES & STOCKBRIDGE P.C.

Date: March 1, 2001

By:


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